Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: YMCA School Age Care at Poyner Elem

Provider No.: 46285

Address: 1138 Central Ave, Evansdale, IA, 50707

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Brandon Bennett

On-Site Supervisor: Joseph Espinosa

Phone Number: 3192333531

E-Mail: BBennett@blackhawkymca.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/13/2025

Licensing Period: 01/01/2026 to 01/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/12/2024

Comments: Compliance on 04/29/24

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/13/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to YMCA School Age Care at Poyner Elementary in Evansdale. I met with Joseph Espinosa, the on-site supervisor. Mr. Espinosa is also the Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator at the Family YMCA of Black Hawk County. There are two staff members with the children in the morning and two staff members in the afternoon.

Brandon Bennett is the director. Mr. Bennett is the Director of Youth Development, SAC. Mr. Bennett started with the YMCA on 10/05/22. He has previous experience in childcare, including as an assistant director, in Minnesota. His office is in the YMCA facility in Waterloo.

The program is in Poyner Elementary. They primarily operate out of the cafeteria area but also utilize the school gym. The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:30 am and 3:40-6:00 pm. The program serves children who are in kindergarten through sixth grade. There are currently 24 children enrolled.

The cafeteria and gym are open spaces that allow for free play and organized activities. Natural lighting is available in the cafeteria and artificial lighting is used in the gym. The centers observed include art/crafts, library, blocks/Legos, games, transportation, table toys, Play-Doh and magnets. Centers are stored in a closet located in the cafeteria.

I visited the program during the afternoon session. The program was in ratio. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving.

The children primarily use two bathrooms located outside the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets. The boy's

bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There is a birdbath sink located outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted.

Staff members use a YMCA cell phone. Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted and they are in the emergency backpack. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits in the cafeteria and in the gym. A daily schedule was posted.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the last two years. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections for the last two years.

Radon testing, a fuel burning inspection and a carbon monoxide detector are not necessary because the program is exempt from environmental assessments as a before and after school program that serves only school-aged children and located in a public-school building. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/12/24, with compliance on 04/29/24.

The YMCA offers afternoon snacks. A snack menu was posted. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. The program is not part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Snacks are provided by the YMCA/NE Iowa Food Bank. They are delivered to the program and were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. The program does not serve breakfast, but a table is cleaned and sanitized so children could eat breakfast if they bring it. There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The children eat breakfast at school once they are released from the program.

The program uses Purell Food Service Surface Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. This product has a one minute dwell time.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program uses the elementary school's playground. There are three areas. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning under the climbing equipment for two areas and rubber mulch is used for the third area. There are climbing walls, slides, bars, rings, rocking toys, steppingstones, spinning toys, a balance beam, merry-go-rounds, tunnels and a see saw. There are also grassy areas and a basketball court with hoops. Benches are available for the children to rest. Shade is available.

There is a gym available when the children cannot go outside.

The children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children's files. They were in great condition.

On 10/02/25 I reviewed one staff file at the YMCA. The staff member had an outdated Iowa background check (SING).

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Mr. Espinosa was terrific with the children. I visited the program later in the afternoon so there were only a few children left. They were outside on the playground. Mr. Espinosa states they were in the cafeteria earlier and they made magnets. Mr. Espinosa always has creative ideas for the children and he likes to keep them active. He maintains positive communication with the children and their families. He does a great job as an on-site supervisor. He is organized and knows what is required by HHS licensing.

Mr. Espinosa sends the other YMCA sites ideas for activities once each month.

Mr. Espinosa states the children in the program knew each other prior to school starting so they played well with one another right away.

Mr. Espinosa states the children have ideas about what they want to do and he tries to make it happen.

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Mr. Espinosa states he bought perler beads to the program and the children have really enjoyed them.

Mr. Espinosa states the school staff members are amazing. The children run up to them and hug them. He loves to see the interaction.

Mr. Espinosa states he has a good relationship with school administration. They can use the media center on days they cannot go outside due to the weather and they cannot use the gym. The school allows them to use the playground, cafeteria and gym. The school keeps him updated on school events so they can plan.

Mr. Espinosa states he communicated with parents at drop off and at pick up. They also communicate through emails and text messages.

The program is inclusive . They make sure all the children feel included.

The program meets a need in the community to provide care for children before and after school. They are safe on the school site and do not have to transition to a new location.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

The program will not be cited for anything but you must update Mr. Espinosa's SING background check immediately.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to remove Bekah Stevens as a co-director. Mr. Bennett remains the director.

I met with Mr. Espinosa following my observations and he had a great visit. There will be no citations.

Date: 10/20/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.